

Benefits of the Cooperative Purchase Program

Every district gets the same price, regardless of location or amount of items ordered.

Orders are delivered as frequently as once a month (depending on how the district would like to receive orders).

Items ordered are less expensive than the vendor's regular price.

Items ordered are delivered directly to any district in Montana with no added surcharges.

The program allows districts the flexibility to purchase as much or as little as needed. There are no requirements for minimum size orders.

The program can be used as a district's primary purchasing plan, or in conjunction with other purchasing plans. There are no mutually exclusive agreements.

For more information contact:

School Nutrition Programs
Office of Public Instruction
PO Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501
(406) 444-2501
or visit:

<http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/SchoolPrograms/SchoolNutrition/index.html>



OPI COOPERATIVE PURCHASE PROGRAM

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The Montana Office of Public Instruction

Cooperative Purchase Program



Providing quality food to Montana schools at a lower price.



OPI COOPERATIVE
PURCHASE PROGRAM



opi.mt.gov

**Montana
Office of Public Instruction**
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

The Cooperative Purchase Program

provides quality food and kitchen supply items to schools across Montana at a substantial cost savings through high volume bid purchasing. Two bids are conducted during each school year, with up to four deliveries in each bid. Each school in the state, regardless of their order size or location, receives the same price on products offered. There are no restrictions on the quantity or type of food the school can order.

All items offered through the **Cooperative Purchase Program** are screened to ensure quality, nutritional integrity, and student acceptability.

How Does the **Cooperative Purchase Program** Work?

1. Bids for the **Cooperative Purchase Program** are conducted twice a year in accordance with USDA and Montana regulation and laws. The items (food, supplies and customized products) included through the program are determined by Montana districts.

*The Advisory Bid and Commodity Committee (ABC) regularly reviews and revises the items available through the OPI **Cooperative Purchase Program**.*

2. Schools place orders online.

<https://data.opi.mt.gov/CooperativePurchasing/Frmlogin.aspx>

3. Orders are delivered as frequently as once a month (depending on how the district would like to receive orders).

Advisory Bid and Commodity (ABC) Committee



A committee of school food service managers from around the state review **Cooperative Purchase Program** items to ensure quality, nutritional integrity and student acceptance.

They work to include more foods that help schools meet higher nutritional standards, such as, foods made with whole grains and foods lower in fat and sodium. The committee also works to include as many Montana made foods as possible.